

## EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE CUSTODY ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

**PURPOSE:** To provide emergency care to persons requiring psychiatric evaluation who are under police custody, and to facilitate communication between health care providers and law enforcement agencies

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### **PROCEDURE:**

**If Law Enforcement believes person to be mentally ill and dangerous AND harm likely to occur prior to MHB proceeding:**

1. Law Enforcement issues emergency Protective Custody (EPC) certificates. The Law Enforcement Agency will provide the nursing staff with a copy of the EPC certificate when the patient is brought to the hospital. The copy must be placed in the patient's chart.
2. The Law Enforcement Agency will notify the hospital before bringing the patient to the hospital whenever possible. The patient will always be brought into the hospital through the ER door.
3. Nursing staff will notify on-call mental health provider by pager, if they were not already notified by the Law Enforcement Agency.
4. A medical provider must be contacted using the regular procedure when a patient with an EPC order presents to the ER.
5. Medical stability will be established by a medical assessment and treatment rendered as necessary.
6. Treatment of serious medical conditions takes priority over mental health evaluations.
7. A mental health provider will conduct an evaluation and suicide risk assessment. The mental health provider will share their conclusions and professional opinion with the medical provider and law enforcement.
8. All EPC patients will be entered into the network management system. (Registered)
9. Medically unstable patients may need to be admitted to the hospital. These patients may require a guard at their bedside if they are out of control and pose potential for harm to themselves or others. Law enforcement is responsible for providing this protection. Nursing is responsible to provide for medical needs including one to one care as indicated. Law Enforcement personnel are to be used for security and flight risk reasons only.
10. The Region's Emergency System Coordinator will be notified by phone or by voicemail of admissions within 24 hours, including weekends.
11. Patients under suicide precautions must be charted on every fifteen minutes using the safety room observation sheet. It may be necessary to assign a nurse to stay with the patient at all times.
12. Discharge orders must be written by the medical provider to dismiss or transfer a patient from the hospital. Law Enforcement Agencies may provide additional instructions as needed.
13. EPC orders can only be lifted by the County Attorney or the Board of Mental Health. Clarify the origin of all orders to lift an EPC.
14. If EPC patient is going to MHB hearing, the EPC unit (Crisis Center) shall notify Magellan (HHS agent) for assistance in securing appropriate placement and authorization PRIOR to the hearing. If a patient is committed for either Inpatient or Outpatient services, Crisis Center staff must pre-authorize those services. If the service recommended for commitment is Inpatient level of care, HHS through Magellan will determine the location of the service provider.